SUBJECTS.

18. The new Forest Rules.

Mr. D. G. Cameron (Member, South Travancore Planter's Association) said that he learnt that the new Forest Rules were coming into force and wished to know something about them.

Dewan's reply.—The draft of the new rules has been published for the remarks of the public. You can have a copy of the rules proposed. I shall arrange to send you a copy for your remarks.

(3) CUSTOMS REVENUE.

19. Certain modifications needed in the existing rules relating to the export, free of duty, of foreign goods once imported into the country.

Mr. Noordin Kunju Koya (Member, Alleppey Trading Classes) said that copra imported from other countries was being converted into oil and punnac. Under the rules, the same person who imported the copra could export the oil and punnac free of duty. If, however, the articles were sold to another, he could not get the benefit of this rule. In the case of pepper etc. imported, the same person had to export if it was to be done free of duty. In the above cases, the Member said that the person exporting must be allowed to do so, free of duty, irrespective of whether the same person imported the goods or any other through whose hands it has passed in the course of trade.

Dewan's reply.—This matter is still under consideration. The Excise Commissioner has been asked to report.

20. Measures for the development of trade at Alleppey.

The same Member spoke of the necessity of deepening the Alleppey canal, as there was not sufficient water for the boats to pass. The deepening of the canal, which had only now been begun, would take 18 years at the rate at which the work at present was conducted. He complained of the want of proper landing ghats; and further said that the Sirkar coolies employed in transporting goods at the port worked only from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M., and the merchants had to pay the coolies out of their pockets for work done at other times, over and above the usual dues paid to the Government. Then he stated that more convenience should be allowed to the merchants in the matter of taking their goods to the steamers which, at present, was allowed only till 3 P. M. As regards the weights used, the Member pointed out that there was no uniformity at Alleppey and Arukutty, and he urged the necessity of sealing the weights with the Sirkar seal. Then he spoke of the scarcity of lights in the canal and the improper lighting of the few existing lights. He represented also that goods were allowed to be kept in the open godowns on the beach only for three days, after which godown rent was levied. This was a hardship which he prayed should be removed.

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